

## Universiade bid

The university is putting in a bid to host the 2011 World University Games.

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## Minimum wage maximized

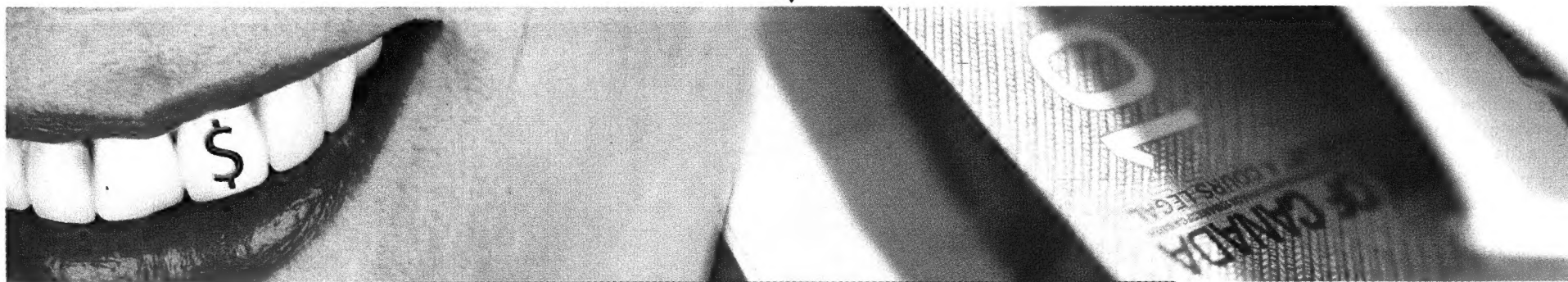
After languishing near the bottom of the heap for years, Alberta is raising its minimum wage. What impact will it have on students, and the companies they work for?

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## Virtual world

A new research chair will advance virtual reality research on campus.

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UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

# folio

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## Prime minister questions researchers on nanotechnology

*Martin delves into the practical and the abstract on NINT tour*

By Richard Cairney

Prime Minister Paul Martin met with some of the world's leading nanotechnology researchers Tuesday to discuss everything from new diagnostic tests for Mad Cow Disease to the origins of humankind.

Pausing only briefly to speak with reporters after the meeting, Martin said his tour of the University of Alberta-based National Institute for Nanotechnology (NINT) was "very, very interesting." Martin had toured three NINT research labs before sitting down for a roundtable discussion with university and National Research Council researchers and administrators.

Afterwards, Deputy Prime Minister Anne McLellan told reporters that, with the creation of the \$120-million National Research Council facility on its campus, the U of A is home to one of five such facilities in the world.

"This is a place where, it doesn't matter if you are from India or China or Vegreville, this is the place to be," she said.

U of A President Dr. Rod Fraser said the conversation with the prime minister covered practical applications of nanotechnology, including research being conducted at the U of A that could virtually eliminate the threat of Mad Cow Disease.

Fraser said that U of A researchers Drs. Chris Backhouse and Linda Pilarski are developing lab-on-a-chip technology that could lead to live testing of cattle for bovine spongiform encephalopathy within four years.

"We might be able to test every cow for misfolded proteins," Fraser told reporters. "This would be a really fundamental breakthrough."



Dr. Bob Wolkow discusses issues of atomic manipulation with Prime Minister Paul Martin and Deputy Prime Minister Anne McLellan.

"There was considerable interest in it," Pilarski said, referring to the prime minister's reaction to the research. "He seemed very interested in how we can take basic science and make it accessible and beneficial to the people of Canada, so they get the benefits economically and in terms of health care. That seemed a real priority for him."

"He was really pushing the scientists,

asking them what nanotechnology is going to tell us . . . and what is nanotechnology going to contribute to our quality of life," said NINT director Dr. Nils Petersen.

Petersen said the prime minister also raised the fact that, while Canada is a world leader in research and nanotechnology today, it needs to consider where it will be positioned 25 years from now, as nations such as India and China expand in

scientific capabilities.

While the meeting was scheduled to last just 20 minutes, the prime minister apparently became so immersed in the conversation he didn't want to leave. Instead, he extended the conversation another 20 minutes to discuss, in part, questions about the origins of life itself.

"He was asking all sorts of questions," said Dr. Bob Wolkow, a U of A physics professor who is also group leader of the molecular scale devices program at NINT. "He was asking where atoms came from. I told him the atoms he is made of used to be part of a dinosaur, and that gave him pause. I also told him atoms never wear out and that we are working on the ultimate green technology, that we are using the smallest molecules to make things and that those things will consume the smallest amount of energy. He seemed very interested in that."

Wolkow said he was impressed with the prime minister's interest and grasp of science.

"He was clearly engaged. He wasn't just walking through the paces, he was acutely interested. It's inspiring and gratifying to know the prime minister is aware of at least the salient issues in leading technologies and that he recognizes we need to invest now to thrive in the future."

Pilarski, an oncologist and Canada Research Chair in Biomedical Nanotechnology, had the same impression.

"It was really exciting to know we have a prime minister who is excited about science, who understands science. He clearly has a really insightful intellect." ■

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# City and campus primed for Universiade bid

Canadian candidate will be selected June 5

By Scott Lingley

The road to the World University Games is a long one for organizers at the University of Alberta and the City of Edmonton, who want to bring the 2011 summer games for student athletes back to the capital city.

On March 1, Edmonton City Council confirmed its partnership with the U of A in bidding to host the games, which would bring 6,000 athletes from 125 countries to compete in 11 core sports – basketball, diving, fencing, soccer, gymnastics, judo, swimming, table tennis, volleyball and water polo – and up to three optional sports. The city and the U of A previously hosted the Universiade in 1983. The U of A's Dean of Physical Education and Recreation, Dr. Mike Mahon, said he thinks Edmonton's history of successfully hosting international athletic events can only help the bid.

"We have a really strong sense of what it takes to host the Universiade. We have hosted other major events like the Commonwealth Games and world athletics championships, so with all of that as experience, we'll be seen as a city and university that have the wherewithal to put it together," Mahon said. "We have two Canadian competitors in Calgary and Kamloops. They'll also have strong bids, so



The University of Alberta and the City of Edmonton have burst out of the starting blocks with a bid to host the 2011 Universiade.

it's far from a slam dunk, but we feel really good about our particular bid."

This optimism was bolstered by the announcement this week that Montreal is withdrawing its bid to host the games, but there are a lot of hurdles to clear before any decision is reached. The contender cities will present their bids to Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS), which will select one city to advance to the International University Sport Federation (FISU), the governing body of the World University Games. FISU makes the final host-city selection, which will be announced in early 2007.

"If we were to become the successful Canadian bid, then things would really heat up. The level of expectation for the FISU bid would be very, very high, so it will be a major undertaking to put together the bid package," Mahon said.

"It's one of the real challenges of going

through these processes – you put so much time and energy into something over a couple of years and it's quite conceivable that at the end of the day you're left with nothing, which is not for the faint of heart. It's one of the reasons that often, in the end, groups don't bid. I think it's one of the reasons Montreal pulled out, because they weren't feeling confident enough at this point and, if you're not, it's probably wise not to proceed."

A successful bid, however, would bring major benefits both to the U of A and to the city. The estimated economic impact in Alberta of the 2001 IAAF World Championships which Edmonton hosted was \$159.7 million, to say nothing of international exposure from coverage of the games.

"We've seen that events like this are very good for Edmonton," said city manager Al Maurer. "They present a unique

opportunity to profile the city on the world stage. They present a direct economic impact and they open up new avenues to update our recreation infrastructure."

Certainly Edmonton's extensive athletic facilities are seen as a major asset in advancing the city's bid. But Mahon said the 1983 Universiade provided a great opportunity to showcase the city's cultural offerings as well.

"In '83, there was a very significant cultural component to the Games, and we expect to do the same thing in 2011, so that we can ensure that we not only involve people who are interested on the athletic front, but also those who are interested more in the arts and culture," Mahon said. "We have a Universiade scholarship from 1983 that supports students in the humanities and fine arts as well as students in the physical education area, so we hope to continue with that tradition." ■

## folio

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## Driver training costs now covered

Insurance rates stabilizing; training costs covered centrally

By Richard Cairney

The University of Alberta is making substantial changes to fees it charges employees when it comes to driver training and evaluations, virtually eliminating the expenses.

The fees were introduced in 2002 after the university struggled to find an insurance company that would cover it. After being informed that its insurer intended to drop the university, U of A administrators hired a consultant to recommend policies and practices that would make the university less of a risk and a more attractive client to insurers.

The institution of practices to monitor driver skills and to ensure drivers completed defensive driving courses led a private firm to insure the university. While its rates had soared from about \$72,000 per year to approximately \$250,000, the move still saved the university more than \$1 million in annual rates it would have faced in the high-risk 'facility' insurance market.

"It would have wiped out our vehicle pool," said Linda Dudley, the university's risk manager. "And we had a terrible time going to the market to find someone who would write us."

And while the university tried to recover costs of assessing driver skills, search-

ing abstracts, delivering defensive driving courses, and hiring a fleet safety officer, it was still operating the program at a deficit. And costs of assessing and training drivers – at \$50 each – represented new expenses most faculties, departments or administrative units hadn't budgeted for.

Those extra costs, along with bottlenecks in training during the spring, as researchers prepared to head out into the field, sparked protests over the new initiatives.

But now, those costs have been budgeted and are being covered centrally, for the most part.

"People are still required to invest that time but now at least we've been able to eliminate the cost concern," said Geoff Hurly, associate director of operations, energy management and transportation. Exceptions to the new rule will be those who take the training off campus, or fail twice.

There are benefits for drivers who complete the defensive driving course internally, beyond gaining defensive driving skills. Dudley and Hurly say those drivers can take that defensive driving certificate to Alberta Registries to have demerits reduced on their license and can ask their

own insurers to see about having their private rates dropped.

And at the same time, the university is earning points for driving more safely – and containing insurance costs. Dudley points out that while the number of drivers and vehicles changes over time – it is currently about 1,700 drivers and almost 400 vehicles, including trailers and all-terrain vehicles – the university's cost per driver has held steady since implementing the new practices.

"We've been able to maintain our rates for the last two renewals, which is a huge plus for us," she said. "I can't thank the campus enough for doing what has been required." ■

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Alberta's minimum wage is going up, and despite concerns about its impact on business, the move won't have much effect.

# Minimum wage hike will have minimum impact

*Businesses will survive, students will benefit*

By Lee Craig

The minimum wage in Alberta will, over the next three years, go from \$5.90 to \$7, changing Alberta's status as a debt-free province with one of the lowest minimum wages, to fourth-highest in Canada. The change will benefit some students, say campus members, but in terms of the larger economy, a University of Alberta economics professor said the increase is not significant.

"In a prosperous province like Alberta, it has been a long time coming," said Jordan Blatz, president of the University of Alberta Students' Union.

"The impact it will have on students as a whole, obviously it won't affect everyone, but...it will affect them greatly because as tuition fees have continued to skyrocket over the last few decades, students have been forced to work more and more part-time and full-time jobs during the summer...more importantly, they are working more now than ever during the school year."

Dr. Shmuel Sharir, a U of A professor of labour and consumer economics, said the change affects a small number of people, and so the impact is limited.

"It's not that important from an economic point of view," he said. "If it has an impact it will mainly be on the service industry. Service will decline and prices may go up a little. Some restaurants, etc., will have lower profits and some may close down, but very few."

Sharir has studied the service industry and the minimum wage during the last three decades. He and his students theorized that raising the minimum wage would reduce the number of jobs (the amount of employment) and that the number of hours an employee worked would decline. Their study suggested that the amount of employment did not change, but

that they were correct in the theory that the number of hours per worker declined.

The study also showed the percentage decline in hours was smaller than the percentage increase in minimum wage. "Suppose the minimum wage is increased by 18 percent (as is happening in Alberta,) but the number of hours decline less than 18 percent, let's say by 10 percent. That implies that the income of the workers will increase. If wages are going up more than the hours decline, then the workers will end up with more money in their hands," said Sharir.

He believes it is important for society to realize that the minimum wage is not an anti-poverty law. To make a living wage, people would have to earn at least \$20 an hour, and many businesses simply cannot afford to pay this wage, he says. Small hotels and restaurants, for example, would close, he explained, if they paid their workers \$20 an hour.

"If you want people to have a raised ability to buy goods, if we as a society want to help poorer people, we should do it through higher taxes. Let the government give it, or we should go through a charitable organization," he said. "We should be willing to consume less if we want to give to other people."

It's not fair, Sharir added, to expect businesses, especially small businesses, to be responsible for tackling poverty. "The issue of giving to poorer people is a different issue than that of the minimum wage – it is about what is the best way to transfer consumption from (wealthy) people to poorer people."

However, raising the minimum wage to \$7 from \$5.90 is a different issue than raising it to a living wage. Sharir did say that evidence from studies does not support what some in the Alberta government have

said in the past: that a smaller increase in the minimum wage would have an adverse effect on employment and business.

"The theory does not necessarily say that it would happen (the lowering of employment), and the empirical evidence, at least for the hotel and restaurant business, suggested it did not happen in the past."

Sharir also emphasized that of the people making minimum wage, who are about 10 percent of Canada's labour force, many of those, probably 80 per cent, don't rely on one minimum wage job and are not considered poor.

"They could be students who have a higher income because of their parents, and older people who may have a pension. Some may work in other jobs, be multiple job holders, and others maybe have two minimum-wage jobs...we don't know much about these other circumstances."

Blatz, who is in the process of looking for a job for the upcoming spring and summer break, still sees the increase as being important. He said that students are sacrificing their time studying during the school year to work more hours to pay for essentials such as tuition and living expenses.

"A student who has to work part time at minimum wage currently during the school year is sacrificing the amount of time they can spend on their studies, the amount of time they can spend getting involved in extracurricular activities, all for earning minimum wage, which is really low," said Blatz.

"At \$7, which is still low, it's going to mean those students will have to work less hours to be able to earn the kind of income they needed to earn to get by."

Blatz said that minimum-wage issues are tightly tied to rising tuition costs at universities and colleges in Alberta.

"The fact is that students are being asked to pay significantly more now than they were two decades ago. Tuition fees have more than tripled in that time period. Yet the amount a student can make, earned during a summer or in the year, has relatively stayed pretty much the same. Our minimum wage hasn't increased, and our student earning potential hasn't increased in that time period, so we are expected to pay way more but only able to earn the same amount."

Blatz said that many students make more than minimum wage – for example, he has made more than minimum wage since high school – but some students are limited by what jobs they can find.

This situation is often the case for international students, who may be limited to certain service-industry jobs on campus. Citizenship and Immigration Canada rules say that international students are limited to working within the boundaries of university campuses.

Minimum wage is an issue "because there are many students, who, in part, because of the limit of the boundary of where they can look for jobs, might have to accept employment that is minimum wage or close to it in terms of working in some of the businesses or services that are offered on the campus," said Angela Anderson, an international student advisor, who works at the U of A's International Student Services in the International Centre. She added that the increase in the minimum wage will benefit some of the approximately 2,300 international students on campus.

"Some students might be lucky enough to work for a university department, but some have to take what they can get and many of those would be minimum wage or close to it," said Anderson. ■



## It's a Scottish world after all

*Jay Haverstock's mom knew what she was doing when she signed her son up for bagpipe lessons*

By Tom Murray

When the Canadian Brier wrapped up last weekend, Jay Haverstock was in the thick of things – not as a curler, but as a musician, playing the bagpipes before nearly 16,000 people. It wasn't the biggest crowd he'd ever played in front of, "but it was pretty neat."

For some, the bagpipes rank just below the accordion on the list of unlikely musical instruments to adopt and learn. For Jay Haverstock, a 44-year-old programmer analyst in the Department of Physics, the sound of the pipes is irresistible.

Part of the 62-member strong Edmonton and District Pipe Band recently selected official pipe band of the 2005 Brier in Edmonton, Haverstock started squeezing the pipes at an early age.

"My mom enrolled me for private lessons when I was 12 without me knowing about it," he laughs. "She figured I needed a break from piano. I played that until I was 14, but I found piping a little more interesting. When I was a young teenager, I suppose piano was the worst thing to be involved with. Of course, now I regret not keeping it up; it would be nice to have multiple skills."

Mothers usually push their teens in the direction of piano, quiet woodwinds or acoustic guitar, respected instruments that don't shake the foundation of the house during practice. Apparently, Mrs. Haverstock had an intuitive idea of what her son would be best suited for.

"She just thought it would be a good thing for me to do. Mom is a music teacher, so I guess she thought it would be a lot better than the generic guitar or drums."

Of course, any teenager enamoured of loud sounds would no doubt eventually be won over by the, ahem, arresting tones of the Scottish bagpipe.

"It's freaking loud. The bagpipes are a very powerful instrument, and it's pretty piercing when you get close enough to it," Haverstock said.

"It's also a very challenging instrument, and that's what I was looking for. The social aspect of it was also a real bonus, because you're surrounded by your peers and everybody has a lot of fun."

He's certainly not alone within the Edmonton and District Pipe Band, where

Haverstock plugs into the collective drone of 42 pipers and 23 drummers. The band is one of the largest such ensembles in Canada, highly respected throughout the world; they're also in great demand, and just finished a show March 6 at the Winspear Centre.

"My parents were at the concert," said Haverstock, "and they've been to every concert, but they said it's pretty impressive to hear close to 50 pipers on stage with the Royal Canadian Artillery band playing one tune."

Another benefit to his musical choice has been Haverstock's opportunity to check out the source of his sideline. His five-year association with the pipe band has taken him to Scotland, the home if not the birthplace of bagpipe, where he's competed at the World Championships four times. The audience there can swell to about 30,000. But the size of the local band is what drew comments, even in the royal city of Stirling, where bagpipe competitions are held on a regular basis.

"It's a whole different thing that I wasn't aware of when I joined the band," he said. "There's a lot of heritage involved, and customs. It's quite the interesting world to visit, if not live in. Usually in Stirling we do three or four competitions, plus the Worlds. We also get to travel about to other events, because from there you can move fairly easily around."

Along with a schedule that takes the band overseas on a regular basis, the band has also toured Canada, taking in Highland games and other events in Ontario, Nova Scotia, and that unlikely hotbed of Gaelic culture, Quebec. They've got a fairly strenuous schedule around Alberta, where the group participates in Scottish cultural events throughout the year.

For a niche hobby, Haverstock puts in a lot of hours and travel.

"It's true, we do keep pretty busy; the community here is fairly active: they have an annual Burns' night, and the police department has their own Burns' night. Those are the two most popular ones, but there are also lots of (Highland) dancing competitions and Games, piping competitions and the like. There's always lots to do." ■



Jay Haverstock, with his wife Clair Miller, has travelled the world playing the bagpipes.

## Health researchers to receive \$15 million in CIHR funding

*U of A awarded grants for 31 projects*

By Scott Lingley

University of Alberta researchers are among the recipients of new health research grants announced by Prime Minister Paul Martin in Calgary. More than \$222 million has been earmarked to fund research projects across Canada.

Dr. Hasan Uludag, a professor of chemical and materials engineering, and Dr. Walter Kipp, a professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences, are among those who will receive funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) to pursue their respective projects. In all, 31 applications from the U of A were approved for a total of more than \$15 million in funding.

Uludag, who has cross-appointments with the Department of Biomedical Engineering, the Department of Dentistry and the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, received CIHR grants for two different research projects. He'll receive \$104,246 a year for the next three years to engineer delivery systems for gene therapy, a collaborative effort with U of A colleagues Dr. Aziz Ghahary and Dr.

Bruce Ritchie.

"The basic idea is that the current delivery systems are quite toxic to the cells and we are engineering a new class of delivery vehicles that are cell-compatible – that are compatible with human biological systems," Uludag said. He added that the delivery systems would be used for therapy in treating gene defects such as hemophilia and bone defects.

Uludag will also receive \$553,444 over the next four years to do research in the development of osteoporosis drugs.

"We are designing a new class of drugs that will be specifically delivered to bones," he said. "Right now the current drugs just go all over the body so what we get is activity all over the body. Sometimes that activity is not acceptable – for example, we get kidney effects. So by designing a bone-specific delivery vehicle, we can target the drug to the bone specifically so we can get a better therapeutic activity and reduced side effects."

Uludag said he feels fortunate to have

been awarded support for both these projects.

"I think I'm the only one with two research grants from this institution," he said. "It's dynamite. The competition was quite tough this time . . . so to be able to get two grants with such tough competition was good. It will accelerate everything we're doing."

Kipp has been awarded \$1.25 million over four years to study the effectiveness of treating AIDS patients at home in western Uganda. Along with colleagues at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, and the region's local health department, the public health scientist and his team will set up two rural sites for the delivery of antiretroviral drugs. Working with a staff of volunteers, the clinics will treat a total of 200 patients, mainly in their homes. The focus of the program will be ensuring that patients strictly adhere to their drug treatment regimens.

"Many rural patients cannot make it to the hospital (for treatment)," Kipp said.

"Our working hypothesis would be that treatment in villages can be provided with the same quality and outcomes as in the hospital."

Prime Minister Martin and Minister of Health Ujjal Dosanjh joined CIHR president Dr. Alan Bernstein in announcing the grants on March 14 at the University of Calgary. In all, 571 health research grants totaling \$222 million were announced.

"By enabling researchers to stay at the cutting edge of their fields, we are strengthening our country's position as a leader in building an innovative and cost-effective health care system," Martin said. "Their work will contribute to strengthening the research and training environment for young Canadians in all regions of the country."

CIHR is the government of Canada's agency for health research. Composed of 13 institutes, CIHR provides leadership and support to more than 9,000 researchers and research teams in every province in Canada. ■



# Grieve earns Canadian Business Leadership Award

Construction firm's leader recognized by School of Business

By Zanne Cameron

Pride, loyalty, a commitment to deliver on promises and a commitment to your employees are the common-sense values that have driven the success of PCL Construction for almost 100 years. It's no surprise then, that Ross Grieve, president and CEO of the firm since 1997, is the 2005 University of Alberta School of Business Canadian Business Leader Award (CBLA) recipient.

"Good business is all about hiring the best people and earning their commitment and loyalty," said Grieve.

PCL's logo is a familiar sight on campus and in the Edmonton community; the company is currently building the National Research Council's National Institute for Nanotechnology, and the Health Research Innovation Facility on campus, and recently completed the Winston Churchill Square renovation downtown. Canadians may not realize that PCL is just as familiar a logo across the continent, with projects underway in far-off locations including San Diego, Honolulu, Arizona, Missouri, the Arctic, Florida and the Bahamas.

From humble beginnings in Saskatchewan in 1906, PCL has become the largest general contracting organization in Canada and among the largest in the United States with annual billings of approximately \$3 billion (Cdn).

Grieve was one of the original 25 employees to purchase shares in the company when PCL adopted an employee-ownership model in the late 1970s. PCL is still 100-per-cent employee owned with approximately 1,500 salaried employees holding shares in the company. "I've been very lucky," said Grieve. "I was fortunate to join a company on the verge of great growth and expansion."

Grieve experienced PCL's commitment to its people first hand. He began his career with the company in 1969 after graduating with a civil engineering degree from the University of Manitoba. He was given the opportunity to develop, and quickly moved into project management, receiving what he calls a 'Masters in the construction industry,' PCL style, by receiving training on the job and gradually being given responsibility for projects of increasing complexity and scale. Learning from the 'old timers,' Grieve also became a part of a corporate culture that earned respect in whatever community it

operated in.

"The people who built PCL were held in high regard, well respected in the community, involved in industry associations and gave back to the industry," said Grieve. "I learned that from the old timers, and shared their pride in their work and in the company. PCL operates on principles of common sense and good practice. It is a company with great corporate values; it is very principled and operates with integrity. Our operations are unequivocally above board."

Running a construction company is incredibly complex – each project is a massive choreography that integrates everything from negotiating the deal, to buying the hard hats, nails, lumber and steel, to hiring and ensuring the safety of the worker under the hard hat who hammers the nails.

"It's remarkable when you see all of the transactions, the hundreds of thousands of 'things' that need to get done," Grieve said. "This business is all about teamwork, planning and implementing. We leave behind some unbelievable physical accomplishments."

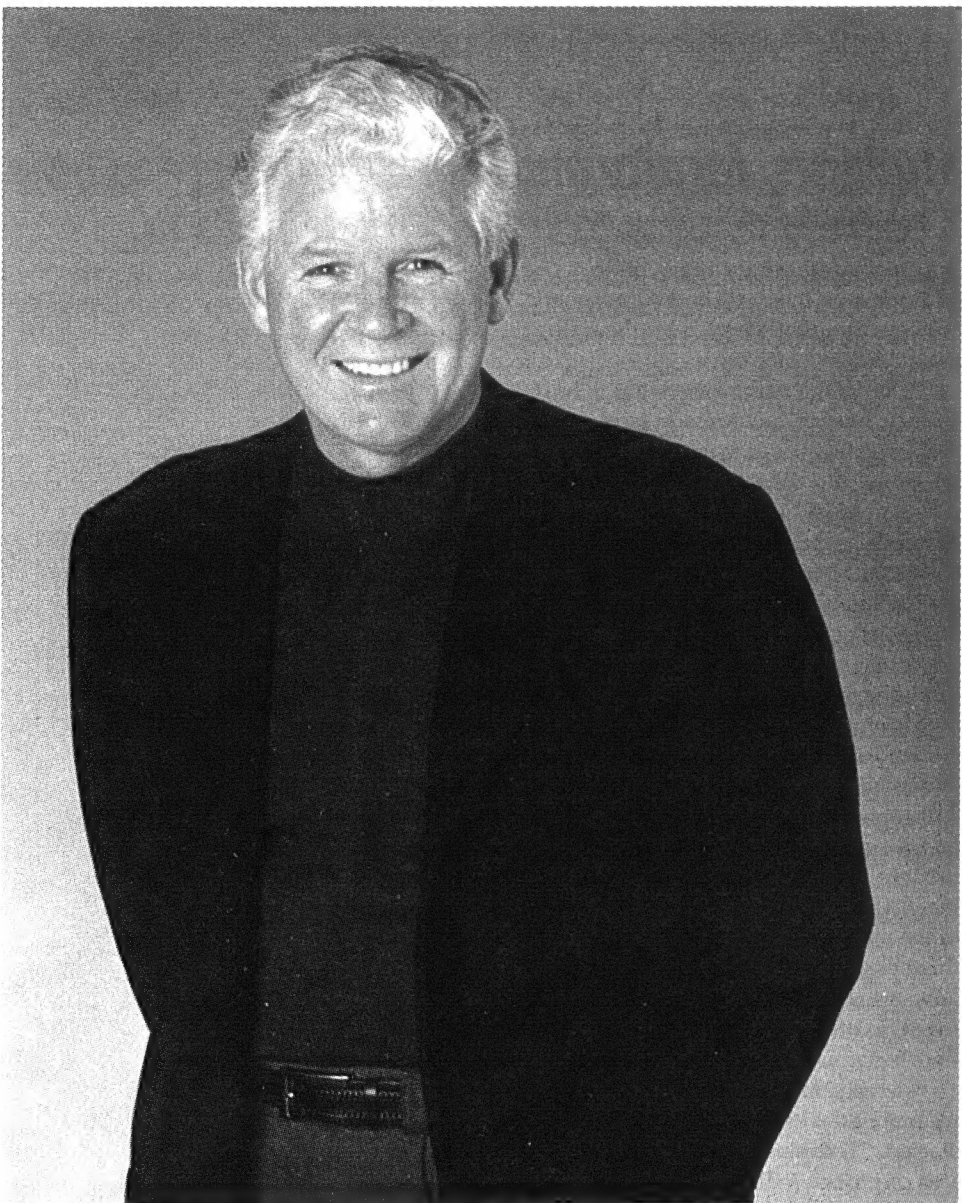
Each project, large or small, is the culmination of the teamwork of the hundreds of people behind it. It is the personal accomplishments of each of those people and "an executive team that is second to none," that Grieve credits for the success of the company.

Grieve was surprised to learn he was winner of the 2005 CBLA award and is reticent to claim credit for a company that he feels was built on a century of innovative management. "There were some pretty terrific leaders at PCL's helm in the past. I know many of the past CBLA winners and hold them in huge regard. I hadn't put myself in their league."

Those winners include two former PCL helmsmen: Bob Stollery and John Poole, as well as Syncrude's Eric Newell, and well known business leader and philanthropist, Stanley Milner.

Ross Grieve serves as a member of the Board of Governors at the University of Alberta, and is a past director for the Banff Centre, among many numerous community commitments.

"Ross Grieve has been an integral part of the success of a company that is known internationally for its ethics, its commit-



PCL President and CEO, and member of the U of A Board of Governors Ross Grieve has been awarded the School of Business's Canadian Business Leadership Award.

ment to quality and for its commitment to its people," School of Business Dean Dr. Mike Percy said. "These are the essential business values that are the backbone of Canada's business reputation internationally. These are the business values that have been part of our core curriculum for almost 90 years, and that will drive the next century of successful Canadian business forward."

What differentiates Canadians in international business? While recognizing that there are differences in business culture regionally within Canada, Grieve said "Canadians are hard workers. We concern

ourselves with developing loyalty and are more prone to resolving issues through discussion."

The award will be presented to Grieve on March 23 at the School of Business' annual signature event held at the Shaw Conference Centre. The University of Alberta School of Business and its Business Advisory Council presented the Canadian Business Leader Award annually since 1982 to Canadians whose leadership distinguishes them as men and women worthy of recognition. Recipients are leaders, entrepreneurs and pioneers of progress in the business world. ■

# Auction excitement can ignite bidding frenzy, study finds

Thrill of the chase leads to buyer's remorse

By Bev Betkowski

Shoppers who get swept up in the excitement of an auction and end up regretting it can take some comfort in knowing why: bidding frenzy, a condition uncovered by University of Alberta researchers.

The more intense the bidding is at an auction, the more likely it is that a buyer will be gripped by bidding frenzy, says Dr. Peter Popkowski Leszczyc, a marketing professor at the University of Alberta School of Business.

"It is a mental state characterized by a high level of arousal or excitement, a sense of competition, and a strong desire to win," said Popkowski Leszczyc. "We believe greater levels of bidding frenzy will cause consumers to value an auctioned product more highly."

The research was presented recently in a paper at the ninth Behavioral Decision Research in Management Conference, hosted by the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University.

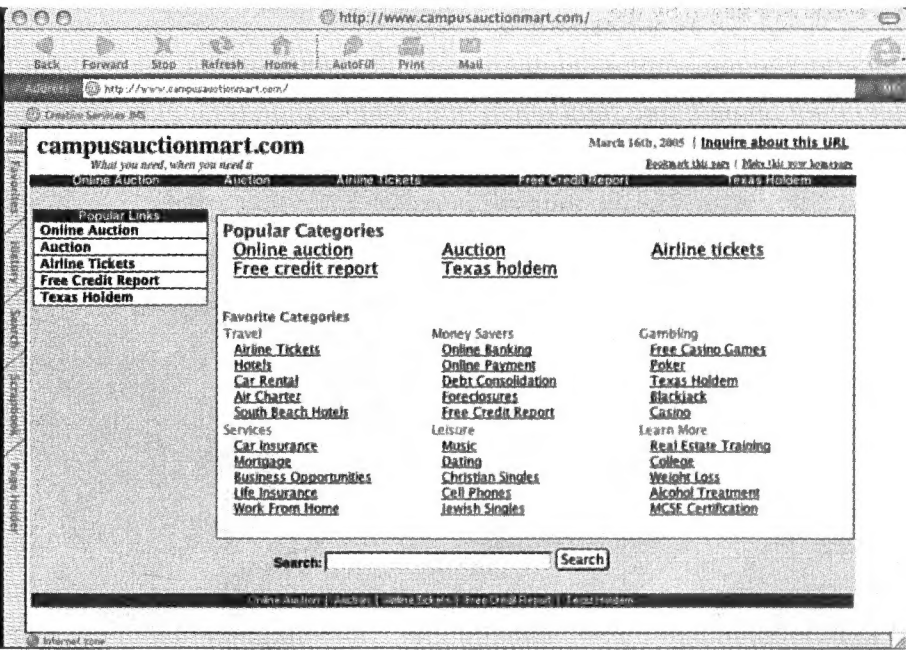
Bidding frenzy poses potential pitfalls for buyers, as logic loses out to human competitiveness, Popkowski Leszczyc said. "Recently an unknown painting sold online

for £70,000 (about \$163,000 Cdn) after some bidders started a bidding war. The actual painting was probably worth about £100 (about \$263 Cdn)."

He believes that bidding frenzy is a similar problem to gambling addiction. "There is some similarity in the adrenaline rush of winning the auction, or even just the last-minute bidding. Some people spend hours a day online, purchasing hundreds of items a year."

In the study, Popkowski Leszczyc and his colleague, Dr. Gerald Haubl, conducted five lab experiments comparing consumers' online bidding behaviour under two auction types: an open ascending bid (English) auction, the most common type where bidders compete directly; and sealed-bid auctions, in which bidders can only bid once, usually by writing it down.

They discovered that items were more highly valued in the English auction format, as it allowed dynamic interaction among bidders with publicly available high bids. The study also revealed that both greater frequency of arrival of rival



Shoppers who get involved in online bidding wars need to proceed with caution.

bids and a smaller perceived number of bidders led to higher value being put on the auction item.

The study also showed that for bidding

frenzy to take hold, an auction participant must be competing directly with other human bidders rather than with a pre-programmed electronic bidding agent. ■



# Kids can't get enough of Science Sunday

**Students, faculty and staff volunteer to show off neat stuff**

By Shawn Benbow

More than 350 elementary children took over the Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Building March 6 for the sixth annual Science Sunday.

"One of the reasons we want to host Science Sunday is to provide kids with a fun and educational experience using the museums and collections on campus," said Jonathan Meakin, communications and outreach co-ordinator with Museums and Collections Services. "All of the activities we have here relate back to the research we're doing with the collections we have. Obviously we market it to kids aged 5-13, but we try to make it fun and educational at the same time."

Dr. Patricia Cavell, collections manager with the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, has been putting on Science Sunday since its inception. "We thought we would try it one year to see if there was any interest for people to come to the university," she said. "Over the last three years we've had people asking in advance when we were going to have this event, so it's really gained quite the reputation."

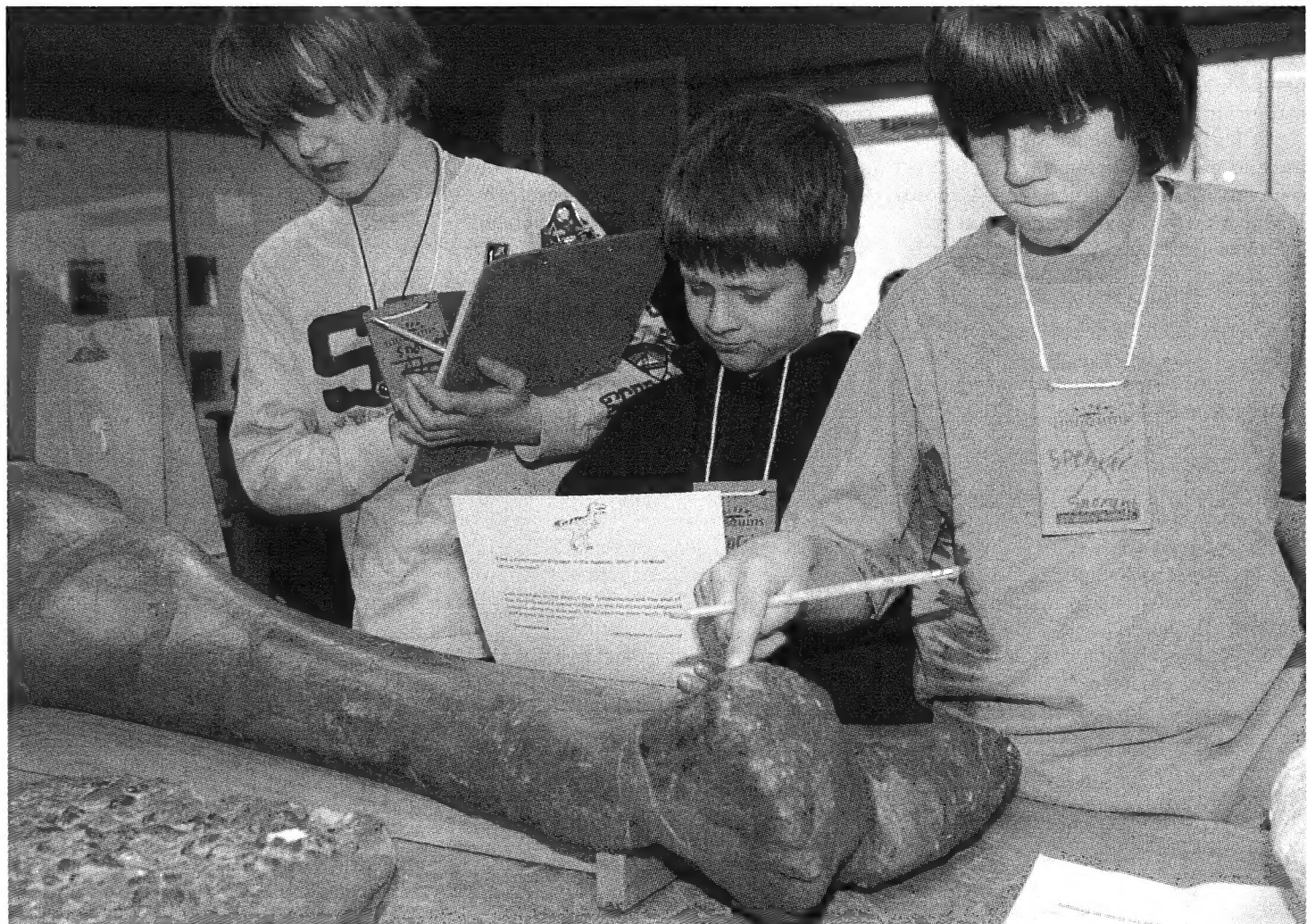
Cavell said people started lining up more than an hour before the event started. "There's a lot of enthusiasm ... you can touch a dinosaur bone in a field cast, you can touch the oldest rock in the world," she said.

More than 700 children and parents were expected to attend. They made their way through 20 stations within the Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Building and the Biological Sciences Building, taking part in a number of activities, from digging for fossils, sculpting dinosaurs from clay, and taking guided tours of the U of A's Paleontology and Mineralogy museums.

About 50 undergraduate and graduate students volunteered for the event, and University Parking Services provided free parking. "One of our most important funders is the Friends of the University of Alberta Museums," Meakin said. "They are a non-profit society that supports the university museums as a whole ... so any materials that we need to purchase, they do that for us."

For next year, Meakin says he's "always looking to bring more collections in. As long as they relate to the museums and collections we have at the U of A, we'll gladly bring them in."

This event was staged by the



Department of Museums and Collections Services and the Earth and Atmospheric Sciences department to promote the breadth of collections the University of Alberta has to offer.

"You get a small child early on in a university environment, and it's important that they realize that they can be at the university," Meakin said. "Yes, this is down the road, but sowing that seed now is what's so important." ■

Hundreds of children and parents took part in the annual Science Sunday staged by Museums and Collections. Clockwise from top: Spencer and Evan Bridges and Alex Engler are fascinated by a dinosaur bone; Carl Watkins and his son Michael, 9, check out displays; Arwin Thyse, 9, prepares to conduct an archaeological dig; and six-year-old Lucy Merkowski pays rapt attention to student volunteer Robin Sissons.





# Getting a read on literacy

*In trying to help her students understand math, Linda Phillips became a literacy expert*

By Phoebe Dey

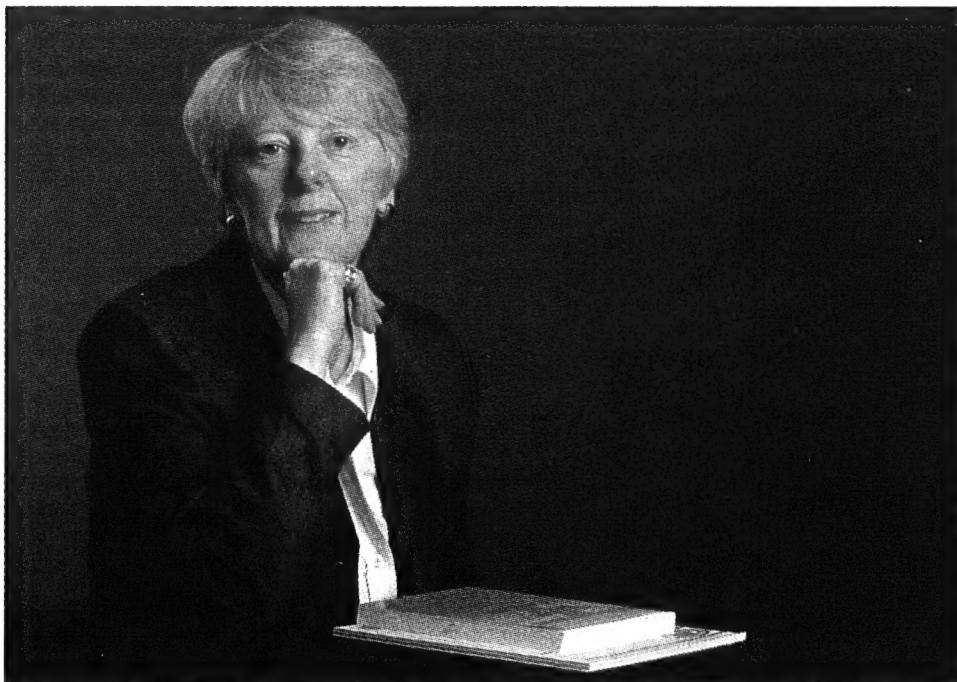
While growing up in eastern Canada, Dr. Linda Phillips revered the name Killam as one synonymous with worthy endowments and high praise. Today, her own name is added to an esteemed list of recipients of the Killam Annual Professorship.

"I never for a moment thought that I would be honoured to have my name associated with those of Izaak and Dorothy Killam on the same plaque," said Phillips, from the Faculty of Education. "I have taken great pride in my professorship and it has motivated me to aspire to other accomplishments in my research, with my students, and in my community commitments."

It was an observation first as a high school math teacher that propelled Phillips to one of the country's leading experts in literacy – a field she has helped command with her innovative and prolific work in and out of the classroom.

She was teaching math in the early 1970s when she realized that the difficulties some of her students were having were not mathematical in nature, but due to the failure to understand how to read the problems or equations.

"I grew keenly interested in their perceptions of what they had to do and in their failure to make the best inferences from what they were reading in order to do mathematics better," said Phillips, director of the Centre for Research on Literacy, housed in the Faculty of Education. "I noticed these same sorts of problems across the curriculum in science, and literature and decided to undertake further studies to understand the cognitive demands of literate tasks."



As a teacher, Dr. Linda Phillips learned that literacy affected her students' understanding across all areas of the curriculum. She has since become a national leader in literacy research.

Since then, Phillips' research on the critical ties between literacy development and inferential thinking has elevated her to the ranks as one of Canada's foremost literacy researchers. She has argued that readers must integrate text information with their background knowledge in order to comprehend what they are seeing in print.

Reading is more than the decoding of written symbols into sounds, says Phillips, or of linking together the meanings of individual words; it is inferring meaning from text. "Inferential reasoning is fundamental to reading well for without the ability to

make inferences, there can be no comprehension," she said.

Phillips is also recognized for her work on scientific literacy, groundbreaking research that merges reading and science education. Scientists, says Phillips, carefully ponder their words, phrasing, meanings and descriptions when writing their own text and interpreting others. "These activities of constructing, interpreting, selecting, and critiquing texts are as much a part of what scientists do as are collecting, interpreting, and challenging data," said Phillips. "These activities with text are

as much a part of scientific inquiry as are observation, measurement, and calculation."

Her work in this area was acknowledged with the Journal of Research in Science Teaching Award, which selects the top article from the journal each year. That nod from her academic peers is one of many Phillips has received over the past 20 years. She has also attracted millions in grant dollars and her work has been continuously funded by Canada Council and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council since 1980. Somewhere, she has also found time to be the literacy theme leader for the Canadian Language and Literacy Research Network, a network of about 110 researchers, which is funded through the federal Network of Centres of Excellence Program.

Not only is she valued across the country, but in her campus classroom as well, where she continues to represent what the Killam Professorship stands for, says Dr. Dianne Oberg, chair of the Department of Elementary Education.

"Dr. Phillips is an excellent supervisor," said Oberg, noting that Phillips even assists her graduate students with the financial assistantship process. "An indication of this is the number of students she has mentored as junior colleagues in research."

"Her students have co-presented at conferences with her; some have co-authored papers with her; many have gone on to faculty positions at other universities...I respect and admire Dr. Phillips' integrity and diligence as a scholar, a teacher and a community member." ■

# Virtual reality chair to explore 'telepresence'

*Pierre Boulanger visualizes a world where distance doesn't matter*

By Geoff McMaster

The closest many of us have come to imagining virtual reality is the holodeck, a fantasy playground featured on the television series Star Trek.

Such flights of fancy are no longer the stuff of science fiction, however. Computer scientists at the University of Alberta have created technology allowing people to sit across from 3-D representations of each other, even though in reality they may be thousands of miles apart.

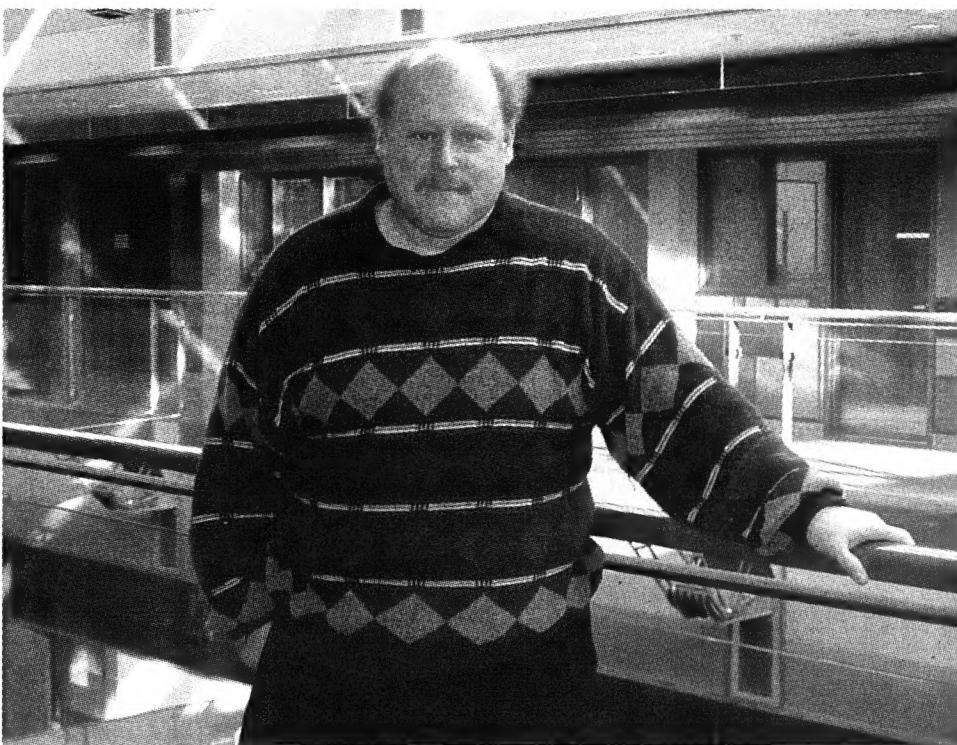
It's only the beginning of a revolution in virtual reality technology expected to take us by storm in the next decade or so, says Dr. Pierre Boulanger, a U of A computer scientist who just received an iCORE/TRLabs Industrial Research Chair worth a total of \$1.7 million to develop his groundbreaking work in collaborative virtual environments.

Imagine a world, for example, where surgery professors transmit hand-and-scalpel movements, as well as what they see while operating, thousands of miles across a computer network, where it is recreated in an operating room.

"The student will actually look at that and actually feel what the doctor is doing," said Boulanger. "On the other hand, the doctor can feel what the students are doing and give them a nudge in the right direction... it's like being in virtual residence with doctors."

Families separated by travel will spend meals together through what is called 'telepresence,' said Boulanger. "You would wear special goggles, and we're working on that, which would allow you to see your wife sitting in front of you, having a day-to-day conversation. In the future you will have virtual encounters like this, people you want to be part of a meeting sitting beside you virtually and having a conversation."

At a press conference on campus



Dr. Pierre Boulanger has been appointed to a new \$1.7-million iCORE/TRLabs Industrial Research Chair in virtual environments.

Tuesday to celebrate his chair, and that of Dr. Christoph Sensen at the University of Calgary, Boulanger explained how scientists are now able to create and manipulate a model of the Earth's core by feeding computers highly sophisticated mathematical equations. Once recreated in 3D, the average person is fully capable of understanding such complex physical phenomena, he said. "People can actually interact with it, and say, 'What happens if we have that instead of this?'"

"A 3-D visual model will allow you to explain complex systems, and understand how the world runs. People understand complex systems because daily life is actually very complex," he said. "The new technology is truly human-centred. Computers are smart

enough today to adapt to people, and that's really a recent shift in computing."

The chairs held by Boulanger and Sensen will focus on a variety of pursuits that will benefit from virtual reality technology, including engineering prototypes, testing medical procedures and conducting scientific research. Sensen, who has received \$1 million for his research, is developing new tools to virtually work in the human body.

Boulanger was recruited to the University of Alberta's computing science department in 2001 from the National Research Council of Canada, where he spent 18 years as a senior research officer. He is also an adjunct scientist and principal investigator for new media at TRLabs,

Canada's largest not-for-profit information and communications technology research consortium, and at the Banff Centre.

His new chair includes an iCORE Industrial Chair Establishment grant of \$50,000 per year for five years, in addition to further grants from TRLabs, the University of Alberta, the Canada

Foundation for Innovation, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, the Canadian Network for the Advancement of Research in Industry and Education and other industry partners.

"From my perspective, an absolutely essential part of Pierre's work on the collaborative virtual environment is described by the word collaborative," said Dean of Science Dr. Gregory Taylor. "It's at the very forefront of what I like to call the new science,

interdisciplinary science where the collaborative team becomes the vehicle for discovery."

iCORE was established six years ago by the provincial government to support university research that develops information and communications technology. There are now 20 chairs focused on emerging areas such as wireless communications, artificial intelligence and quantum nanocomputing. ■



# Climate change has profound impact on indigenous people

## Arctic research taps local expertise

By Richard Cairney

Global climate change is being felt most severely in the Arctic and appears certain to cause enormous environmental problems worldwide, a leading northern researcher says.

And Dr. Mark Nuttall, who holds the University of Alberta's Henry Marshall Tory Chair and served as a lead author on the ground-breaking Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) research project, says the emerging needs of indigenous people urgently need to be addressed.

Speaking to an assembly of researchers on campus last week to attend the 35th Annual International Arctic Workshop, Nuttall said researchers can't rely only on their own observations to catalogue evidence of climate change.

Indigenous people of the North, he said, have "very compelling observations and insights," documenting changes in weather, the behaviour of animals, "and also the very taste of certain animals."

Of course, non-indigenous people living in the North are affected by climate change too, he said, as are those working in resource industries. But environmental changes have a greater impact on indigenous people, many of whom have a strong relationship with the world around them – many rely on hunting, fishing, herding and gathering for sustenance.

And as the environment changes, it's important to note that entire cultures are affected.

"They go far beyond economic exploitation of natural resources . . . this is very often the tradition of culture, so the issue of climate change is also an issue of cultural survival."

To underscore the point, Nuttall pointed out that the Inuit word for weather is the same word used to describe intellect and consciousness.

"Change in climate is felt in a very deep, personal way."

How severe are the changes? For the first time ever, Northerners are being sun-burned; skin cancer is becoming a concern. West Nile Virus, transmitted by mosquitoes, is expected to make it to the Yukon in the very near future. Thawing of the ground, where it has never occurred before, will disrupt buildings, airports, homes and the accessibility to certain areas via winter ice roads. Increasing exposure to severe storms is causing coastal erosion, and animal habitat and diversity are being affected.

And yet, Nuttall said, the root cause is not always implicated. "In some parts of the North climate change isn't seen as the most pressing problem," he said. In Russia, for example northern indigenous people are more concerned with poaching and pipeline construction and the degradation of feeding grounds.

But in those concerns lies, in some way, climate change. "We have to understand and tease out all these different kinds of influences," he said.

That communication and these findings represent "a great breakthrough" that will further involve northern indigenous peoples in research and help identify local problems which can be connected to specific mechanisms of change, he added.

The ACIA "is a baseline," he said. "We are going to build on this process – we are identifying gaps in knowledge." ■

# talks & events

Submit talks and events to Cora Doucette by 3 p.m. Thursday one week prior to publication. **Folio Talks and Events listings will no longer accept submissions via fax, mail, e-mail or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in Folio and on ExpressNews at: <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/events/submit.cfm>.**

## UNTIL SEP 01 2005

**Marginal Notes: an exhibition of bookworks concerning social issues** Bruce Peel Special Collections Library, Rutherford South.

## UNTIL MAR 20 2005

**2nd Annual U of A Wellness Week** Being a part of the university community requires a strong commitment to learning, discovery and service. To make the most of each individual's contribution to the University of Alberta we need to recognize the influence of our health on our daily lives, both here at the University and in the other parts of our lives. It is in that spirit that the Students' Union and the University of Alberta created Wellness Week. Demonstrating our commitment to a holistic approach to health that encompasses our minds, bodies, communities and environment, Wellness Week is a showcase of the ways we guard our health and cherish our part in making the U of A a great place to learn, work and live. Various locations on campus.

## UNTIL MAR 22 2005

**Ti-Jean and His Brothers** Ti-Jean and His Brothers by Nobel Prize winner, Derek Walcott, is simultaneously a contemporary work portraying modern political realities and a very ancient story, adapted from a St. Lucian legend, which uses archetypal characters engaged in battle with the devil himself. It is a simple folktale - the roots of which can be found in many locales around the globe - in which three young men must go into the world to test themselves against the unknown. Tickets are \$10 (adults); \$5 (students). Available only at the door. 7:30 p.m. Augustana Theatre Centre, 4901 - 46 Avenue, Camrose, AB.

## UNTIL MAR 20 2005

**2005 Canadian National Debating Championships** The National University Debating Championships are the culmination of the highly competitive circuit of the Canadian University Society for Intercollegiate Debate (CUSID). Over 50

teams selected to represent over 25 universities across Canada compete for the National Title at this, Canada's largest and most prestigious tournament. University of Alberta.

## MAR 18 - MAR 24 2005

**Distinguished Visitor Gauri Viswanathan, Columbia University** Distinguished Visitor Gauri Viswanathan, Columbia University March 18-24 Friday, March 18, 3:00 pm, HC L-3 "Occult Transmissions: Religion after Religion in Literary Modernism" A reception in HC 3-3 will follow the lecture. Tuesday, March 22, 3:30 pm, HC L-3 "From Orientalism to New Age Philosophy: The Marketing of Otherness" Wednesday, March 23, 7:00 pm, Faculty Club Foyer (reception follows) "The Great Game: The Geopolitics of Secret Knowledge."

## MAR 18 - MAR 20 2005

**Ringette Provincial Playoffs** Come watch the fast paced and exciting action as the U of A Ringette team takes on another tough opponent. Enjoy all the thrills of this new U of A team. TBA.

## MAR 18 - MAR 19 2005

**Art Studio Performance Grant Exhibition** Augustana students receiving art scholarships present their work in a student exhibition. The exhibit will open on Friday at 9:00 a.m. and continue until 5:30 p.m. with remarks and award announcements at 2:00 p.m. It will remain open on Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Augustana Faculty, A030 (Art Studio in Auxiliary Building), 4901 - 46 Ave., Camrose, AB.

## MAR 18 2005

**Day of Silence** THE DAY OF SILENCE What is it? The Day of Silence is a national movement protesting the silence faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people and their supporters. Participants can take part by choosing not to speak as to echo the silence that is caused by homophobia and heterosexism. Participants can also get involved by wearing a red shirt. When is it? March 18th on the U of A Campus Where can I get

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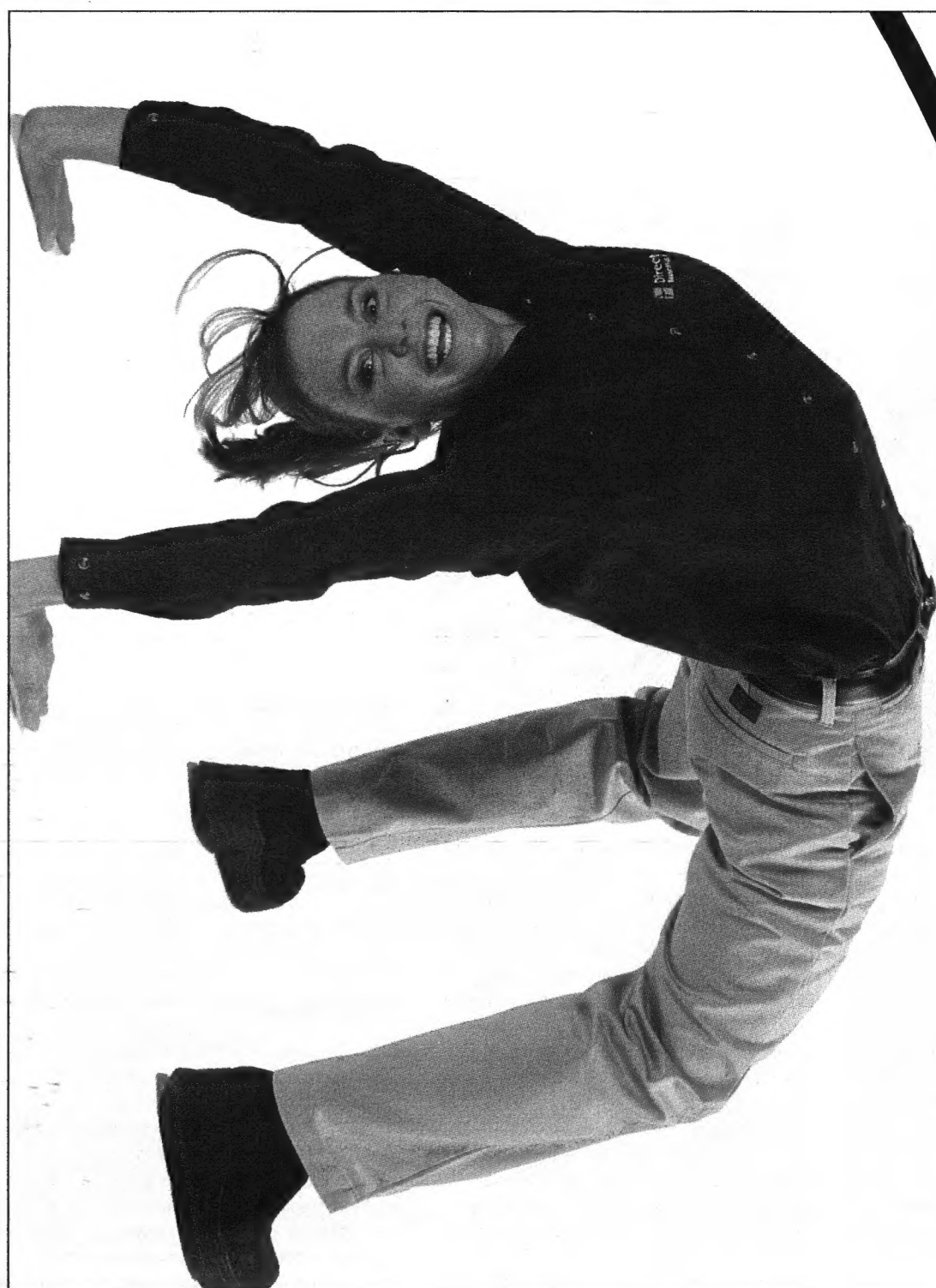
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speaking cards/pins/posters or more information? Breaking the silence occurs March 18th @ 3pm in QUAD. There will be speakers, and participants can literally break the silence by yelling at 3pm. People will also have the opportunity to express how the day has affected them. 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. QUAD.

MAR 18 – MAR 19 2005

**"Representations in transit - From the wheel to the reel..."** A student conference organized by The graduate students of the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies at the University of Alberta will take place Friday March 18th and Saturday March 19th 2005. The conference aims to question and contextualize changes in the representation and the perception of the world, of society and of the human being since the earliest times. Conference lectures will deal with topics such as the impact of former technological changes on collective imagination and personal experience, contemporary research in new medias, numeric technology and its assimilation and effect on the perception of the world, the creation of new myths or the revival of modern myths, contemporary expressions of dreams and fantasies, fears and anxieties, and

more. Distinguished Professor Cameron McCarthy from the University of Illinois-Champaign who will speak on "The Work of Art in the Postcolonial Imagination" and Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science Dr. Fred Judson who will present "The Limits and Dynamics of Formal Liberal Democracy in 'The Global Latino South.'" This year as part of a multimedia evening event, participants, guests and audience members will also have the opportunity to view the first showing of the Prairie Tales. This seventh installment of the latest collection of Alberta-made film and video to tour the province and the nation will be screened with Sheryle Carlson's documentary, The War for Oil and Drug Money. 9:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. University of Alberta Campus.

MAR 18 2005

**Burrowing Owl demographics: What is causing the population decline in Canada** Dr. Troy I. Wellicome, Environmental Conservation Branch, Canadian Wildlife Service, Edmonton is presenting a seminar on "Burrowing Owl demographics: What is causing the population decline in Canada? 12:00 noon in Room M-149 of the Biological Sciences Building.

**MunchMusic Student Noon Hour Recital** Musical selections performed by students and faculty. MunchMusic is held in conjunction with Preview Day activities, an opportunity for prospective students to learn about Augustana and experience life on campus! Admission is free to the public. 12:00 p.m. Augustana Faculty, University Chapel, 4901 - 46 Avenue, Camrose, AB.

**Using the RE-AIM Framework to Determine the Public Health Impact of Community and Clinical Physical Activity Programs** You are cordially invited to attend a special presentation by Dr. Paul Esterbrooks, a research scientist with the Clinical Research Unit at Kaiser Permanente Colorado. 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. E-121 Van Vliet Physical Education and Recreation Centre.

**Department of Physiology** Speaker: Dr. Yu Tian Wang, Brain Research Centre, University of British Columbia. "Synaptic plasticity in learning and memory: from molecular to behavior." 3:00 p.m. 207 HMRC.

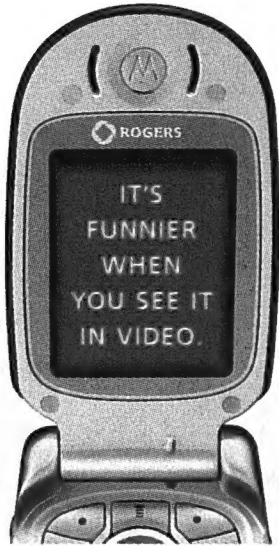
**Gauri Viswanathan (Columbia University),** "Occult Transmissions: Religion after Religion in Literary Modernism" 3:00 p.m. L-3 Humanities Centre.

MAR 18 – MAR 19 2005

**National Classics Undergraduate Conference - latest information!** This conference aims to bring together undergraduate students who are engaged in the study of the ancient world, and to celebrate the excellence and originality of undergraduate research. Undergraduate students from around the country have been invited to submit research papers on any subject pertaining to the history, literature, cultures, languages and archaeology of the Greco-Roman world and its neighbours. The keynote address will be provided by Dr. Alison Keith of the University of Toronto, a leading scholar of Latin Literature and Women's Studies. 3:00 p.m. FRIDAY TALKS will be held in Business 1-5, SATURDAY TALKS will be held in ESB 2-35.

**2nd Annual Undergraduate Classics Conference** This conference aims to bring together undergraduate students who are engaged in the study of the ancient world, and to celebrate the excellence and originality of undergraduate research. Undergraduate students from around the country have been invited to submit research papers on any subject pertaining to the history, literature, cultures, languages and archaeology of the

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- 6839 – 83 St. (Argyll Rd.) 465-5271
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- 6031 – 103 St. 438-2355
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- South Edmonton Common (inside Superstore) 701-3355
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- Costco South 909-4544
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- Hub Mall 9004 – 112 St. 432-3108
- WEST**
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## The Department of Rural Economy, in the Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics,



is hosting a reception to honour **Jim Copeland** on the occasion of his retirement as Faculty Service Officer. Jim is a good friend and strong supporter of our Faculty and the University. Please join us to give him your best wishes.

**Monday, April 4, 2005**

2:30 - 5:30 p.m. (Program commences at 3:30 p.m.) Faculty Club (upstairs - cash bar)

**RSVP only if attending by March 28, 2005 to Judy Boucher (492-0271) or [judy.boucher@ualberta.ca](mailto:judy.boucher@ualberta.ca)**

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Greco-Roman world and its neighbours. The keynote address will be provided by Dr. Alison Keith of the University of Toronto, a leading scholar of Latin Literature and Women's Studies. Anyone interested in the ancient world is welcome to attend and listen to the talks, and more information on conference registration is available on the event website. The conference is also a social event, bringing together individuals with a common interest in the ancient world - the conference includes plenty of time for socializing, including a keynote dinner and after-conference celebration. Students from across North America have been invited to attend this year's event - this could be a fantastic opportunity for you to meet your peers from across the continent! 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Business 2-09 (tentative location - please check website for latest updates).

### MAR 18 2005

**Music at Convocation Hall** Martin Riseley, violin Guillaume Tardif, violin Alycia Au, violin Aaron Au, viola Tanya Prochazka, cello Antonin Dvorak String Quartet No 12 in F, Op 96 ('The American') Ludwig van Beethoven Quartet in C Minor, Op 18, No 4 Arnold Schoenberg String Trio, Op 45. 8:00 p.m. Arts Building/Convocation Hall.

### MAR 19 2005

**"Study Strategies"** Learn practical time management, note-taking, reading and memory strategies that will help you manage your studying at university. Pre-register at 2-703 SUB. 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. 2-702 Students' Union Building (SUB).

**Culture and technology: What should we expect from our software?** Our Philosophers' Cafes offer you the opportunity to hear one of our U of A scholars speak on a topic; participants are then encouraged to converse freely and openly about issues arising, as presenters become the catalyst

and resource for ensuing discussions. Our cafes are always informative and lively, and often deeply entertaining. Topic: Culture and technology: What should we expect from our software? with Dr. Wes Cooper, professor in the Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts. Location: Stanley A. Milner Library (Main Floor, SW Corner). 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**The University of Alberta Madrigal Singers** Annual Fund Raising Dinner Concert/Silent Auction 6:00 pm Cocktails, 6:30 pm Dinner The University of Alberta Madrigal Singers Annual Fund Raising Dinner Concert/Silent Auction Leonard Ratzlaff, Conductor. 6:00 p.m. Fairmont Hotel MacDonald.

**Northern Alberta Honour Band and the University of Alberta Symphonic Wind Ensemble** Northern Alberta Honour Band and then University of Alberta Symphonic Wind Ensemble William H Street, Director Soloist: Roger Admiral, piano Featuring works by Ticheli, Puccini, Grainger, Stravinsky, and Williams. 7:00 p.m. Arts Building/Convocation Hall.

### MAR 19 - MAR 20 2005

**Drama 681 New Works Projects** MFA Directing Candidates Pat Darbasie and David King will present two diverse new plays by Edmonton writers this month. Real World written by Michelle Todd, deals with intercultural issues of then and now. The Turing Tape by Rob Bartel is a cheeky, kitsch, madcap conspiracy inspired by the spy-world of the infamous "Cambridge 4" and mathematician Alan Turing, who not only cracked the German Enigma Code, but kick-started the computer as we know it today. Featuring Chris Bullough, Aaron Talbot, Ben McIvor, Wes Schofield and Northern Light's Trevor Schmidt, this bedside mannered tragi-farce unveils a darker and more humane world of sacrifice, lies and deceit as one man fights for his own integrity. 8:00 p.m. Corner Stage Fine Arts Building.

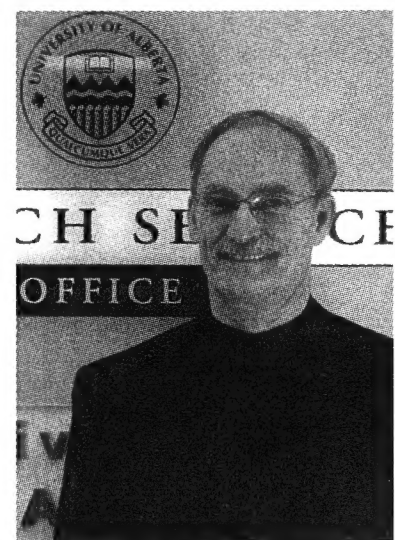
### MAR 21 2005

**Noon Hour Organ Recital** Featuring graduate and undergraduate Student organists of the University of Alberta Department of Music. 12:00 p.m. Arts Building/Convocation Hall.

**Special Seminar** Dr. Peter McCourt, Canada Research Chair in Plant Molecular Genetics, Department of Botany, University of Toronto, presents "Hormones and developmental timing boundaries in Arabidopsis." 12:00 p.m. in room M 149 Biological Sciences Building. Refreshments will be served at 11:45 a.m. M 149 Biological Sciences Building.

**Lecture** Canadian Institute for Nordic Studies and the Department of English and Film Studies are pleased to present a lecture by Fulbright Scholar Professor Bodil Marie Thomsen from Aarhus University, Denmark: "A close reading of Lars von Trier's melodrama 'Breaking the Waves' (1996) and Carl Th. Dreyer's classic film 'Jeanne d'Arc' (1928)."

### RESEARCH SERVICES OFFICE WELCOMES NEIL TAYLOR



Bill McBlain, Senior Associate Vice-President (Research) is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Neil Taylor to the position of Director, Research Services Office (RSO), University of Alberta. As part of continuing efforts to provide better service to researchers and effective and responsible administration of increasing research funding, Neil will provide leadership to the central RSO units and to the distributed component of RSO (comprising Faculty-based Research Facilitators and their support staff).

Neil brings with him 23 years of leadership and managerial experience and extensive knowledge of the research funding environment, as well as of research administration and related policies. This experience, combined with a solid background in program development and administration, budgeting, business planning, policy development, and staff management, will be of great value to the University.

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## FACULTÉ SAINT-JEAN of the University of Alberta IS PLEASED TO PRESENT

**Mr. ROBERT DUTTON, CEO & President of Rona Inc.**

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Born in 1955, Robert Dutton graduated from the *École des Hautes études commerciales* in Montreal in 1977 with a bachelor's degree in business administration, majoring in marketing and finance. He held a variety of positions with Rona between 1977 and 1990, including vice-president of development, in charge of marketing, retail operations, sales and expansions.

Between 1990 and 1992, he was executive vice-president and chief operating officer, responsible for the company's overall management. Since 1992, he's been at the helm as RONA president and CEO.

Robert Dutton sits on a number of boards including RONA Inc., Quebecor Inc., the Montreal Heart Institute Foundation, the Quebec Foundation for Art Therapy and l'Art Brut du Québec.

**Date:** Luncheon, Thursday April 14, 2005

**Time:** 12:00 p.m.

**Location:** Westin Hotel, Edmonton

**Tickets:** \$60 each or \$550 for table of 10

Please contact Sherril at 409-2135 or smwill@edmontonchamber.com for registration.  
For more information call Mona Liles at 465-8763 or mona.liles@ualberta.ca

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make the teashop a key locus for urban encounters. This paper will examine the imaginative geography represented by the everyday world of the chain teashops as part of an argument that urban material modernism played a key part in the constitution of English literary modernism. 3:00 p.m. HC L-3.

**Computing Science Distinguished Lecture Series** Professor Henri Bal, Department of Computer Science, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam will present this distinguished lecture entitled "Ibis: A Java-centric Programming Environment for Computational Grids." Please join Dr Bal for coffee and cookies at 3:00 pm, lecture to follow at 3:30 pm. 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Computing Science Centre B-02.

**Welfare and Work Issues for LGBTQ Teachers in Canada: A National Status Report** Presented by AGAPE: This presentation provides an overview of how Ministries of Education, teachers' associations, school boards, and grassroots cultural organizations have addressed LGBTQ educational issues in Canada. What is AGAPE? AGAPE is a focus group set up to consider issues in relation to sex, sexual, and gender differences in education and culture. It is designed to meet the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-identified, queer (LGBTQ) and allied undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff in the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta. As well, we welcome practicing teachers and other interested members of the larger community. If you have a question, please email Dr. André Grace at andre.grace@ualberta.ca or Kris Wells at kwells@ualberta.ca 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. 5-109 Education North Education Centre.

**MAR 31 - APR 1 2005**

**Public Policy Implications of Gambling Research** This conference will provide information related to gambling policy development, and in particular, explore how gambling research might be integrated into the process. The program includes a very prestigious roster of presenters including Hana Gartner of CBC's Fifth Estate who will be making the keynote address to open the conference on Thursday morning. 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Lister Centre Complex.

**MAR 31 2005**

**Forest Industry Lecture** Dr. Timo Kuuluvainen, Professor in the Dept. of Forest Ecology at Helsinki University in Finland will be giving a lecture on "A Paradise of Forests and Forestry? The Case of Finland". A poster session will begin at 2:00 and the lecture will start at 3:00 p.m. Lister Conference Centre.

**Elena Krevsky (UofA), "Stalinism in a Romantic Mode: Children's Literature of the Early 1930s and the Formation of the Bolshevik Soul History & Classics Colloquium Series.** 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Speaker's Series 2004-5: Conjunctions of the Social and the Political** Dr. Engin Isin, Canada Research Chair, Division of Social Science, York University will speak on the following topic: Annual lecture in Political Science: The Gift of Law. 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. 14-28 Tory Building.

**Department of Biological Sciences** Brad Jones, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta is presenting a seminar on "Development of a combined pheromone-based monitoring tool for the forest tent caterpillar (*Malacosoma disstria*) and the large aspen tortrix (*Choristoneura conflictana*). 4:00 p.m. in Tory Breezeway (TBW) - 1.

**Banquet and annual general meeting of the University of Alberta chapter of Sigma Xi.** Annual banquet and meeting of the University of Alberta chapter of Sigma Xi. Open to all. This will include a lecture by Sigma Xi Distinguished Lecturer Dr. Gordon Orions of the University of Washington on "Environmental esthetics: is beauty only in the mind of the beholder?" 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Map Room, Lister Hall.

**16th Annual McDonald Lecture** Human Rights: Southern Voices Professor William Twining FBA, QC, DCL, JD, LLD Emeritus Quain Professor of Jurisprudence Faculty of Laws, University College of London. 7:00 p.m. RM 237 Law Centre.

**MAR 31 - APR 09 2005**

**The Beaux' Stratagem by George Farquhar** Disguise. Deception. For Love or Money? George Farquhar's comedy, *The Beaux' Stratagem*, is one of the most charming and animated we have. The beaux' are two strapped-for-cash London Gentlemen disguising themselves as a lord and his servant. Their plan is to woo, marry rich and run off with their fortunes, but all is tripped up when their false feelings give way to genuine affection. 8:00 p.m. Timms Centre for the Arts.

**APR 01 2005**

**School of Native Studies Annual Faculty Research Day** The School of Native Studies welcomes everyone to attend their first annual Faculty Research Day. Sessions run: 9 am to 11:45 and 12:30 to 3:15. ED 158.

**APR 01 - APR 03 2005**

**What Happened After Nora Left Her Husband by Elfriede Jelinek** Nobel prize winner Jelinek's first playscript picks up Ibsen's character after she leaves the safety of her home. She

arrives in an altogether different economy of values and power. Her main currency in this economy, however, remains her body. The question is: Can she survive without Helmer? This is the Canadian premiere of the play, directed by Dr. Piet Defraeye. Please sign-up on the sheets provided outside the Drama office (FAB 3-146) to reserve a seat. Corner Stage Fine Arts Building.

**APR 01 2005**

**Industrial development and Alaska's North Slope environment** Dr. Gordon Orions, Professor Emeritus, University of Washington is presenting a seminar on "Industrial development and Alaska's North Slope environment," at 12:00 noon in M-149 of the Biological Sciences Building.

**The University of Alberta chapter of Sigma Xi** Presentation by Sigma Xi Distinguished Lecturer Dr. Gordon Orions of the University of Washington on "Industrial development and Alaska's North Slope environment". See also his presentation at the annual banquet of Sigma Xi on March 31, 2005. Starts at noon. M-149 Biological Sciences Building. 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Biological Sciences M-149.

**Department of Biological Sciences** Steve Zimmerly, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Calgary is presenting a seminar at 3:30 p.m. in M-149 of the Biological Sciences Building. "Retroelements in Bacteria."

**Trio of Music** Milton Schlosser (piano), Tanya Prochazka (cello), and Guillaume Tardif (violin) present a recital of piano trio music featuring the compositions of Clara Schumann, Robert Schumann and Felix Mendelssohn. Tickets are \$12 (adults) \$8 (students/seniors) \$30 (family). Available in advance at Augustana's Fine Arts Office. 8:00 p.m. Augustana Faculty, University Chapel, 4901 - 46 Ave., Camrose, AB.

**APR 02 - APR 03 2005**

**Stone and Ashes by Daniel Danis** Four protagonists gather to tell their version of the same tragic story. Themes of love, loss, revenge, and redemption run through this poetic, heart-wrenching drama. Please sign-up on the sheets provided outside the Drama office (FAB 3-146) to reserve a seat. Media Room Fine Arts Building.

**APR 02 2005**

**"Strategies for Learning Anatomy & Physiology"** Learn useful strategies for dealing with the vast amount of information you have to learn in anatomy and physiology courses. Pre-register at 2-703 Students' Union Bldg. 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 377 Central Academic Building.

**APR 02 2005**

**Knowledge and memory: What are the limits?** Our Philosophers' Cafes offer you the opportunity to hear one of our U of A scholars speak on a topic; participants are then encouraged to converse freely and openly about issues arising, as presenters become the catalyst and resource for ensuing discussions. Our cafes are always informative and lively, and often deeply entertaining. Topic: Knowledge and memory: What are the limits? with Dr. Karyn Ball, assistant professor in the Department of English and Film Studies, Faculty of Arts. Location: Stanley A. Milner Library (Main Floor, SW Corner). 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**APR 04 - APR 08 2005**

**2004/2005 Broadus Lectures** 2004/05 Broadus Lectures April 4, 6, 8 Jo-Ann Wallace "Edith and Me: Adventures of a New Biographer" April 4: "Edith and Me: The Biographer and Her Subject" April 6: "Explaining Edith: From Case History to Cultural History" April 8: "Footprints in Cyberspace: How the Internet is Changing Biography" (with Harvey Quamen) Edith Mary Oldham Ellis (1861-1916) née Lees, is best remembered today-when she is remembered at all-as the lesbian wife of essayist and sexual psychologist Havelock Ellis. But Edith Ellis achieved some success in her own right-as a pamphleteer, as a novelist and a short-story writer, as a playwright, and as a public lecturer on various progressive topics. She was also deeply committed to "experiments" in living. Prior to her 1891 marriage, and together with other members of the Fellowship of the New Life (including Ramsay MacDonald, who would go on to become the first Labour Prime Minister of Britain), she helped found an experiment in cooperative living in Bloomsbury. In the first two of this year's series of Broadus Lectures, Edith and Me: Adventures of a New Biographer, Jo-Ann Wallace reconstructs elements of Edith Ellis's life through a meditation on the biographical project. The third lecture, which will be offered jointly with Professor Harvey Quamen, explores the ways in which the Internet is not only changing how we do biographical research, but also how we imagine lives.

**APR 04 2005**

**Lecture** Dr. Vadim Kukushkin, Post-doctoral Fellow, Department of History and Classics, University of Alberta, will speak on "An Altright Empire? Emigration, Society and the State in Late Imperial Russia." 3:30 p.m. Heritage Lounge, Athabasca Hall.



# positions

The records arising from this competition will be managed in accordance with provisions of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA). The University of Alberta hires on the basis of merit. We are committed to the principle of equity of employment. We welcome diversity and encourage applications from all qualified women and men, including persons with disabilities, members of visible minorities, and Aboriginal persons. With regard to teaching positions: All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. For complete U of A job listings visit [www.hrs.ualberta.ca](http://www.hrs.ualberta.ca)

## ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR CAPITAL HEALTH EVIDENCE- BASED PRACTICE CENTRE DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS

The University of Alberta/Capital Health Evidence-based Practice Centre (EPC) is seeking an associate director to be part of their vibrant, active and interdisciplinary research program. This research centre is housed in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Alberta. The EPC is funded through grants from U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and other partners to develop evidence reports on a variety of nominated topics.

The incumbent will function as an associate director of the EPC. This will entail the following responsibilities: responding to requests for proposals from AHRQ; acting as investigator or co-investigator on relevant EPC projects; providing leadership and mentorship to the EPC staff and students; assisting with the development and execution of the methodological research agenda of the EPC; contributing to the administration of the EPC (e.g., recruitment, studentships, short- and long-term planning); and participating in additional EPC activities, such as the annual Putting Evidence into Practice Workshop. While the EPC will initially provide salary support, we expect the incumbent to be eligible for individual salary support awards such as a Population Health Investigator award from the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research or an investigator award from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

Candidates for this position will have a PhD or MSc in Epidemiology or a related field. Candidates should also have experience in conducting systematic reviews and/or evidence-based medicine research. Strong oral and written communication skills in English are essential and evidence of peer-reviewed publications is desirable.

This is a full-time, grant funded position for three - five years with an opportunity for renewal. Faculty appointment is available and will be commensurate with qualifications. Salary is negotiable and will be commensurate with education and experience. In addition, the University of Alberta offers a generous benefits package. The position will start as soon as an appropriate candidate is found.

Applications should be sent by April 30, 2005 to:

Kelley Bessette, Manager  
Room 8411 ABC  
11402 University Avenue  
Department of Pediatrics  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2J3  
Email: [kelly.bessette@ualberta.ca](mailto:kelly.bessette@ualberta.ca)  
Fax: 780-407-6435

## ACADEMIC CO-ORDINATOR OF CLINICAL EDUCATION FACULTY OF REHABILITATION MEDICINE DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Applications are invited for the following full-time academic faculty position at the University of Alberta, Department of Occupational Therapy commencing July 1, 2005.

Ranked as one of the top occupational therapy schools in Canada, the Department of Occupational Therapy is poised for continued growth. Newly allocated funding has resulted in increased enrolment and expansion in program delivery methods. As part of the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, the Department offers BSc and MSc degrees in occupational therapy and participates fully in an interdisciplinary PhD degree program in rehabilitation science. The department currently consists of thirteen full-time faculty members.

This assistant professor clinical-track position is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the fieldwork curriculum. This includes development of fieldwork sites, supervising students in non-traditional placements and counselling students as required. Candidates must possess a minimum of a BScOT plus an MSc degree. Knowledge of curriculum development is an asset. Teaching at the graduate and undergraduate level will be required. Minimum three-year appointment. Salary will be commensurate with experience.

Qualified applicants should send a curriculum vitae, a statement of teaching and research interests and the names of three (3) references to: Dr. A. Cook, Dean  
Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine  
3-48 Corbett Hall  
University of Alberta

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada  
T6G 2G4 Phone: 780-492-5991  
e-mail: [albert.cook@ualberta.ca](mailto:albert.cook@ualberta.ca)

Review of applications will commence on April 29, 2005 and continue until the position is filled. Further information on the positions may be obtained by contacting:

Dr. Joyce Magill-Evans, Acting Chair  
Department of Occupational Therapy  
Phone: 780-492-0399 Email: [joyce.magill-evans@ualberta.ca](mailto:joyce.magill-evans@ualberta.ca)

## TENURE-TRACK FACULTY POSITIONS FACULTY OF REHABILITATION MEDICINE DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Applications are invited for the following full-time academic positions at the University of Alberta, Department of Occupational Therapy commencing July 1, 2005, or earlier if suitable candidates are found.

dates are found.

Ranked as one of the top occupational therapy schools in Canada, the Department of Occupational Therapy is poised for continued growth. Newly allocated funding has resulted in increased enrolment and expansion in program delivery methods. As part of the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, the department offers BSc and MSc degrees in occupational therapy and participates fully in an interdisciplinary PhD degree program in rehabilitation science. The department currently consists of thirteen full-time faculty members.

Highly productive, eager occupational therapists who have, or will be at the completion stage of a PhD degree specializing in psychosocial issues, pediatrics, and/or occupational performance are invited to apply. Responsibilities for these positions include teaching in both the entry-level and graduate programs, and maintaining an active research profile.

Successful candidates will possess a doctoral

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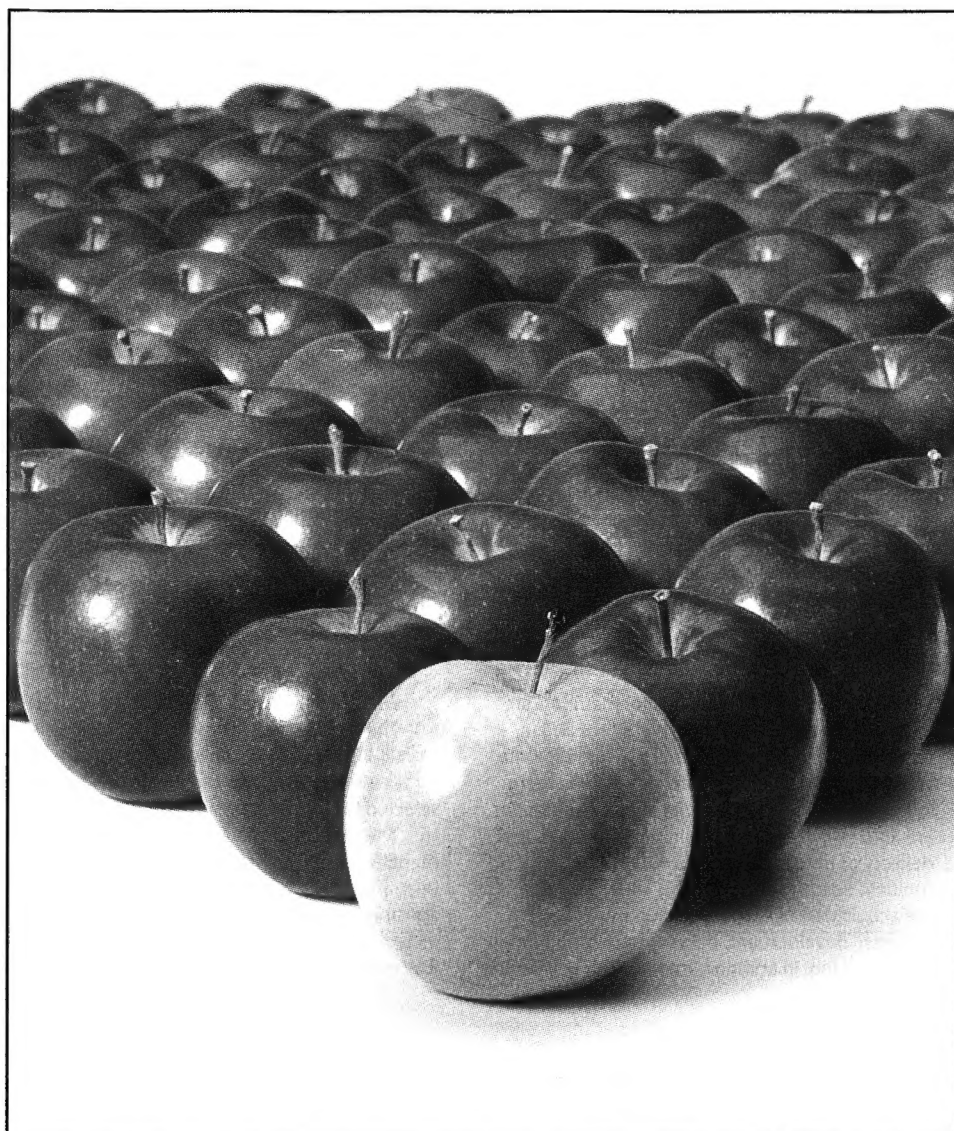
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*Dr. Horst H. Mueller, RPsych, CRHSP*



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degree in health sciences, social sciences or related discipline, have a strong research background and the potential to establish an independent research program. A background in occupational therapy is preferred, but other areas will be considered. Evidence of successful grant applications will be advantageous.

Rank and salary will be commensurate with qualifications at the assistant professor level, however, associate professor appointments will be considered for outstanding candidates. The positions are available immediately. Review of applications will commence on April 29, 2005 and continue until the positions are filled. Interested applicants should send curriculum vitae and a statement of teaching and research interests to:

Dr. Albert Cook, Dean  
Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine  
3-48 Corbett Hall  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2G4  
Phone: 780-492-5991 Fax: 780-492-1626  
Email: [al.cook@ualberta.ca](mailto:al.cook@ualberta.ca)  
Website: [www.ot.ualberta.ca](http://www.ot.ualberta.ca)

Further information on the positions may be obtained by contacting:

Dr. Joyce Magill-Evans, Acting Chair  
Department of Occupational Therapy  
Phone: 780-492-0399  
Email: [joyce.magill-evans@ualberta.ca](mailto:joyce.magill-evans@ualberta.ca)

## TENURE-TRACK ACADEMIC POSITIONS

### FACULTY OF EXTENSION, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

To achieve our mission to contribute responsibly to social and individual betterment and to exemplify the ideals of a civil society, the Faculty of Extension is strengthening its excellence in key areas of scholarship and programming with four tenure-track appointments. We welcome applications from exceptional candidates with research interests and programming experience in one or more of the following interdisciplinary fields:

- continuing professional development with a focus on emerging professions
- e-government and governance
- sustainable communities, including environmental resource management
- organizational theory and development
- public policy, including health-related issues
- networks: learning, community, information

In particular, applications are encouraged from outstanding individuals with a keen interest in community engagement, experience in alternative learning environments, and a track record of successful program planning, development and delivery.

The University of Alberta is one of the leading research-intensive universities in Canada, consistently rated at the top in independent surveys of research and student success, innovation, and learning resources. The Faculty of Extension has a strong mandate with responsibility for continuing education and university outreach, serving adult learners whose needs are not met through traditional university programming. With 120 staff, 14 of which are tenure-track academic appointments, an annual gross budget of approximately \$13 million, and annual student registration count of approximately 13,000, the Faculty offers a diverse range of cost-recovery credit- and non-credit programs and services. These include a graduate degree in communications and technology, approximately 30 credential-bearing programs in continuing professional development and personal enrichment, specialized online learner services, as well as research and evaluation services. Inter- and multi-disciplinary research is encouraged, as is teaching collaboration with other Faculties. Through its 93-year history, our Faculty has achieved an exemplary record of university continuing education.

Reporting to the Dean, faculty members are involved in expanding current offerings and in creating new non-credit, certificate, and diploma credit programs of study that respond to emerging needs. Existing and new program possibilities are addressed through research, production, and delivery of innovative and flexible learning opportunities. Faculty members also are engaged in the acquisition of external resources to support research, development, delivery and evaluation of programming. In addition, members of the tenure-

track academic staff are expected to publish, teach, work with graduate students, and contribute to the academic mission of the Faculty at the regional, national and international levels. Candidates should bring a high level of entrepreneurial enthusiasm and commitment to these positions. Faculty members work collaboratively with the post-secondary sector in Alberta through Campus Alberta and other initiatives with an interest in new models of research and academic programming.

Qualified applicants with a doctorate in an appropriate field should submit their curriculum vitae and the names of three referees by March 31, 2005 to:

Dean Cheryl McWatters  
Faculty of Extension  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, AB, T6G 2T4

Dean McWatters is pleased to provide further information on these positions and may be contacted at (780) 492 2681 or by email [cheryl.mcwatters@ualberta.ca](mailto:cheryl.mcwatters@ualberta.ca).

Positions are open at assistant and associate rank. Successful applicants will receive a competitive salary commensurate with their experience and an excellent benefits plan, including relocation assistance.

## ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY SERVICE-LEARNING PROGRAM

### OFFICE OF THE DEAN, FACULTY OF ARTS

Competition Deadline: 31 March 2005

Applications are invited for the position of Administrative Director for the Community Service-Learning (CSL) Program based in the Faculty of Arts. The CSL Program promotes and supports the integration of community engagement with classroom learning, for the mutual enrichment of both (for more information, see the web site [www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/arts/cslpilot.cfm](http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/arts/cslpilot.cfm)). Reporting to the Director of CSL, the successful candidate will be responsible for the coordination and effective management of all CSL-related programming and initiatives. The incumbent will guide the development of the CSL academic programming from its implementation stages into a comprehensive and integral university-learning opportunity for students, faculty, and community partners. The successful candidate must be able to foster linkages with CSL stakeholders, which include, but are not limited to, other University of Alberta units, faculty and students, community agencies, and relevant provincial and national professional groups. In addition, the successful candidate will ensure the efficient and effective operation of all aspects of the CSL through sound resource management and planning, including its budget and infrastructure. The applicant will be required to supervise the staff, volunteers and student workers in the CSL program.

Qualified applicants will possess a minimum of a university degree, preferably in Arts, supplemented by three to five years of administrative experience. Experience working in an academic setting and/or the voluntary sector is desirable.

The successful candidate will have proven administrative and organizational abilities, superior written and oral communication skills, a working knowledge of higher education and voluntary sector practices, project planning and resource management skills, and partnership development, preferably with Edmonton-based communities.

This full time continuing administrative/professional officer position has a salary range of \$46,112 to \$73,006. In addition, the University of Alberta offers a generous benefits package. Résumés, including the names of three references, should be sent to:

Dr Sara Dorow, Acting Director, CSL  
c/o Office of the Dean of Arts  
6-33 Humanities Centre  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, AB T6G 2E5

The deadline for receipt of applications is March 31, 2005. Applicants are thanked in advance for their interest; however only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

The University of Alberta hires on the basis of merit. We are committed to the principle of equity in employment. We welcome diversity and encourage application from all qualified women and men, including person with disabilities, member of visible minorities, and Aboriginal persons.

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Application Deadline

The deadline for receipt of applications to the EFF – FSIDA is 4:30 PM, April 15, 2005. The next competition deadline dates are October 15, 2005 and January 15, 2006.

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# Ancient art has

# fragile canvas

## Decorating Easter eggs a challenge with a rich past

By Shawn Benbow

On Sunday March 13, the sweet smell of beeswax filled a room on the third floor of CAB as a small group of students and staff learned the ancient tradition of decorating Ukrainian Easter eggs, or Pysanky.

Natalie Kononenko, a professor of Ukrainian Ethnography in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies at the University of Alberta, and her husband Peter Holloway, wanted to give an early Ukrainian Easter present, so they decided to offer a free tutorial on decorating Easter eggs.

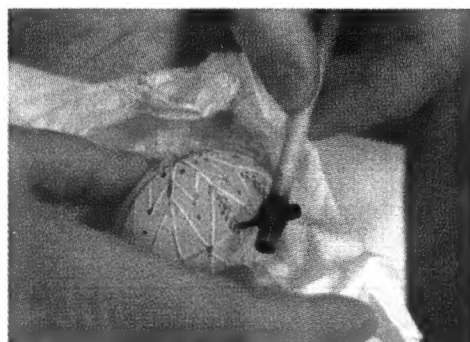
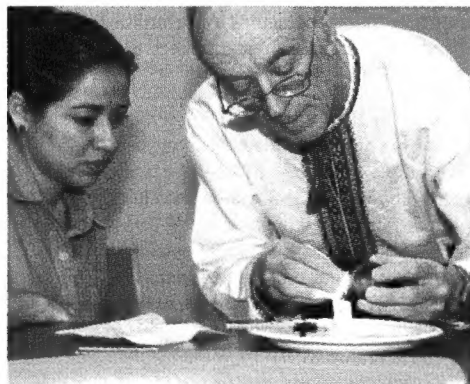
The tradition dates back thousands of years. "It's an ancient art form, and how ancient we don't know. But apparently they were buried in house foundations and other places; they were used for magical purposes," Kononenko said. It is these eggs that were later dug up that gave a clue as to how old the tradition is, she said. "The oldest recovered painted egg was dated to around 2000 BC."

"This is a beautiful art form," Holloway said. "It's also a good mental exercise, because unlike painting, it's a wax-resist process. It's

also a nice challenge and a good cognitive learning experience to draw straight lines on curved surfaces, and thinking backwards in terms of colouring."

Basically, the artist uses a small metal funnel to draw beeswax lines on an egg. Whatever colour is protected with beeswax will stay that colour when the egg is dyed darker. The wax and dyeing process is repeated until the last dye colour, black, at which point the wax on the egg is carefully melted off, revealing the colours underneath. "With painting you can always cover something up; with the eggs whatever you cover up is there to stay," Holloway explained.

Kononenko and Holloway have been teaching people to decorate Pysanky for years; sometimes over 350 people before one Easter. New to the University of Alberta, they decided to try it here and see what the response was. It seemed like a success, and the people learning had fun. "Hopefully we'll get more people coming next year after they hear about it from the people who are here today," Kononenko said. ■



# folio back page

Mid-page photos, clockwise from top left: Peter Holloway removes wax from an egg with student Jezabel Flores; student Marianne Henn puts her artwork to the flame to melt off wax; Holloway applies finishing touches to an egg. Above: Liza Chan shows off her handiwork.

Photos: Shawn Benbow